



Improving the sustainability of bioenergy via Agro-Environmental Zoning (AEZ): South-South lessons

Ackom, Emmanuel

Publication date:
2013

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

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Citation (APA):

Ackom, E. (2013). *Improving the sustainability of bioenergy via Agro-Environmental Zoning (AEZ): South-South lessons*. Paper presented at African Carbon Forum. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Bioenergy session. South-South Lessons, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

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Improving the sustainability of bioenergy via Agro-Environmental Zoning

South-South Lessons

Emmanuel Ackom

African Carbon Forum, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire,
4th July, 2013

Major ENVIRONMENTAL criteria

- Net GHG balances
- Land use change
- Net energy balances
- Water use
- Biodiversity
- Soil quality & health
- Pollution (air, water, soil)
- etc

Major SOCIAL principle & criteria

- Avoidance of competition with food
- Consultation & communication with local communities
- Compliance with national laws and ratified international laws on employment conditions and workers' rights
- Bioenergy production shall not take place on contested lands.
- e.t.c....

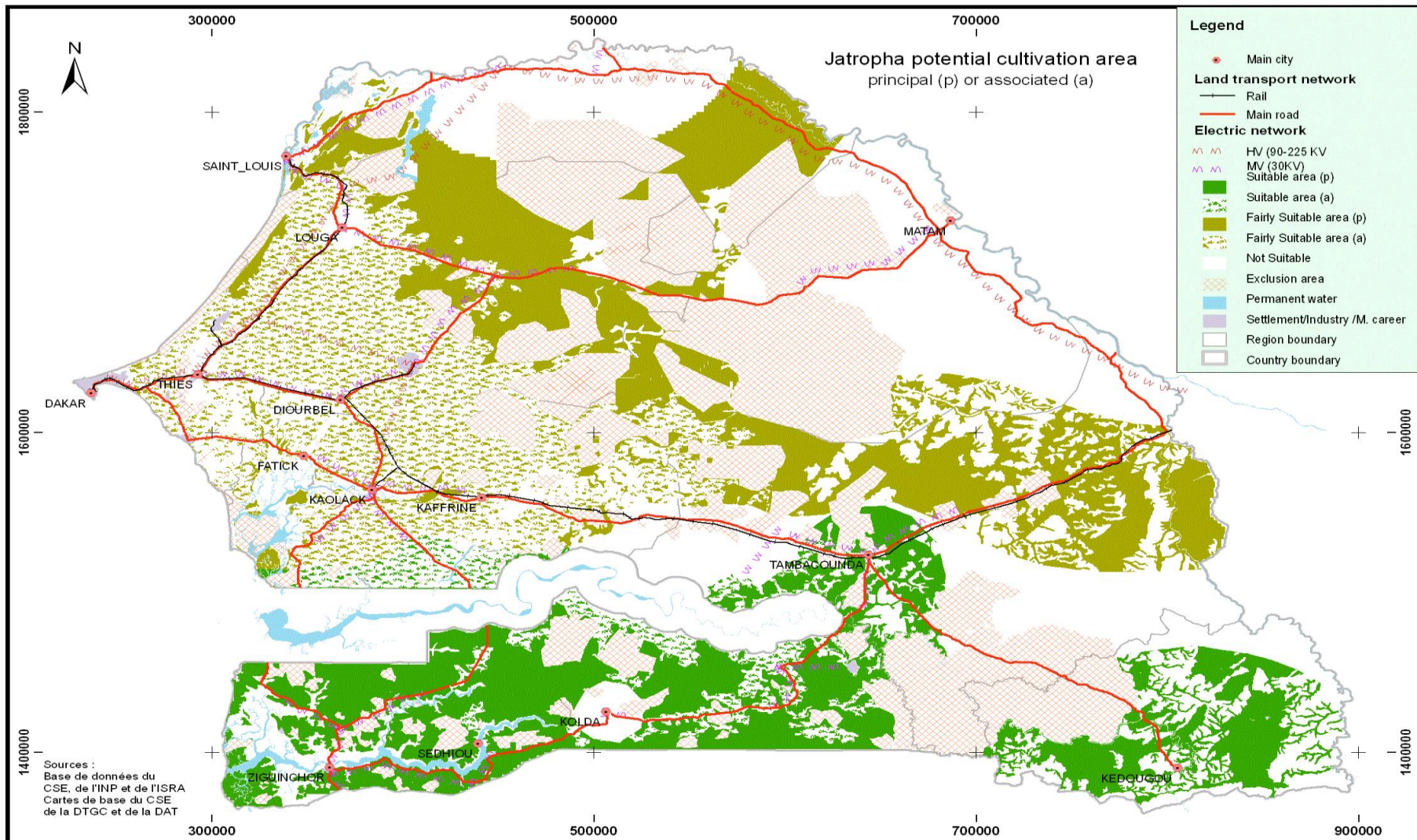
Agro-ecological sugarcane production



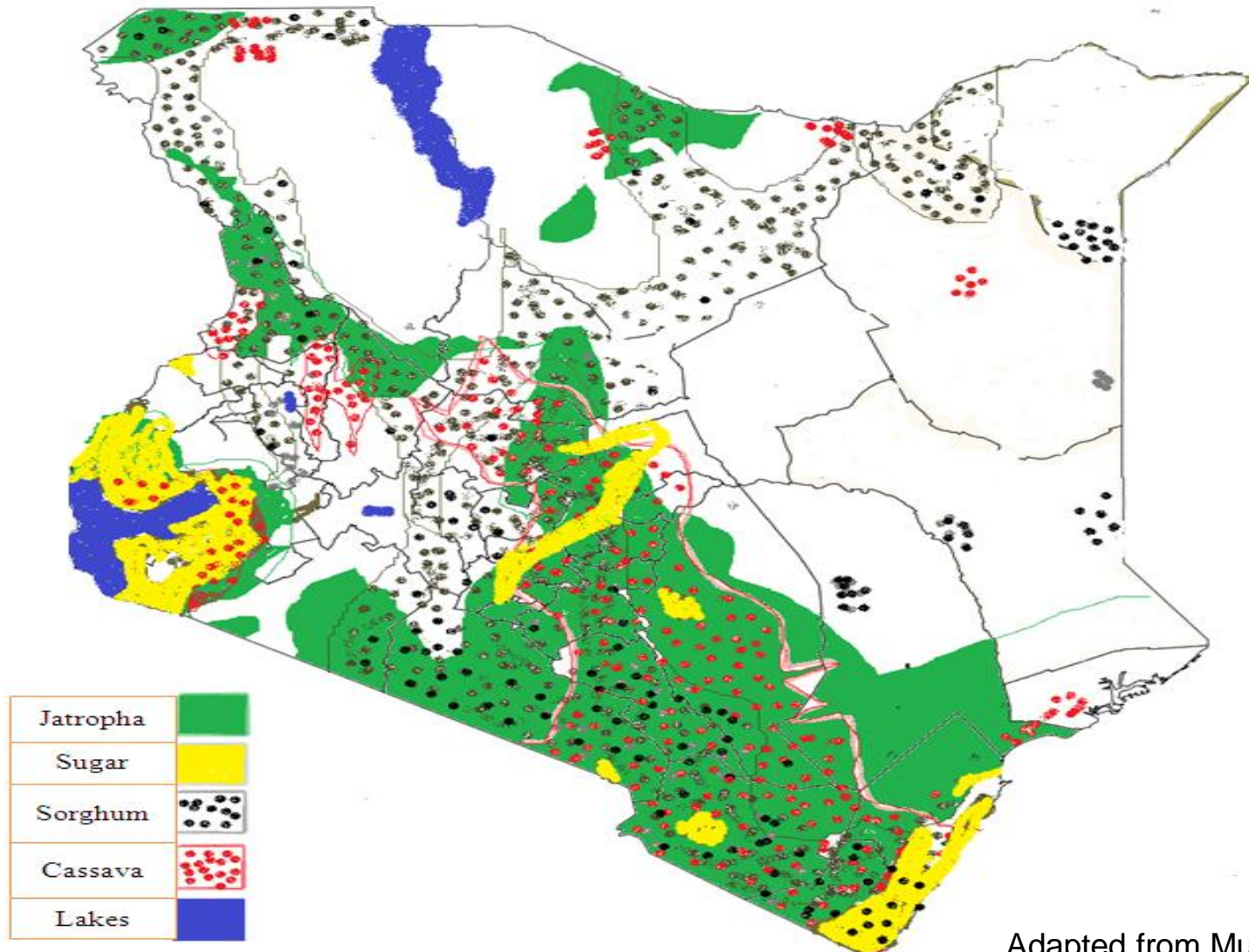
Key Criteria:

- Environmental aspects
- Exclusion of pristine ecosystem i.e. *Amazon and Pantanal biomes, Upper Paraguay River Basin.*
- Avoiding conflict with food production
- Preference for direct precipitation/rainfall over full irrigation
- Degraded pastures

Agro-ecological mapping for bioenergy crop: Senegal



Agro-ecological mapping for bioenergy crops: Kenya



Adapted from Muok *et. al.* 2010.

Key messages

- Agro-environmental zonings – should be the likely condition for issuing permits/license for energy crop production
- Agro-ecological zonings avoids competition of land from food and fuel purposes, as well as the prevention of the use of pristine ecosystems for bioenergy production.
- Agro-ecological zonings in first mover countries provide invaluable lessons for consideration and learning for other African countries.
 - e.g. COGEN Africa (with UNEP, GEF and AfDB).
- Bioenergy derived from sugar cane and non-food based feedstock including residues are often preferred options
- Comprehensive bioenergy sustainability policy integrated into national development plans.

Thank you!

questions and comments

Emmanuel Ackom

GNESD/

UNEP Risø Centre

email: emac@dtu.dk

www.gnesd.org

www.uneprisoe.org